

# The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114

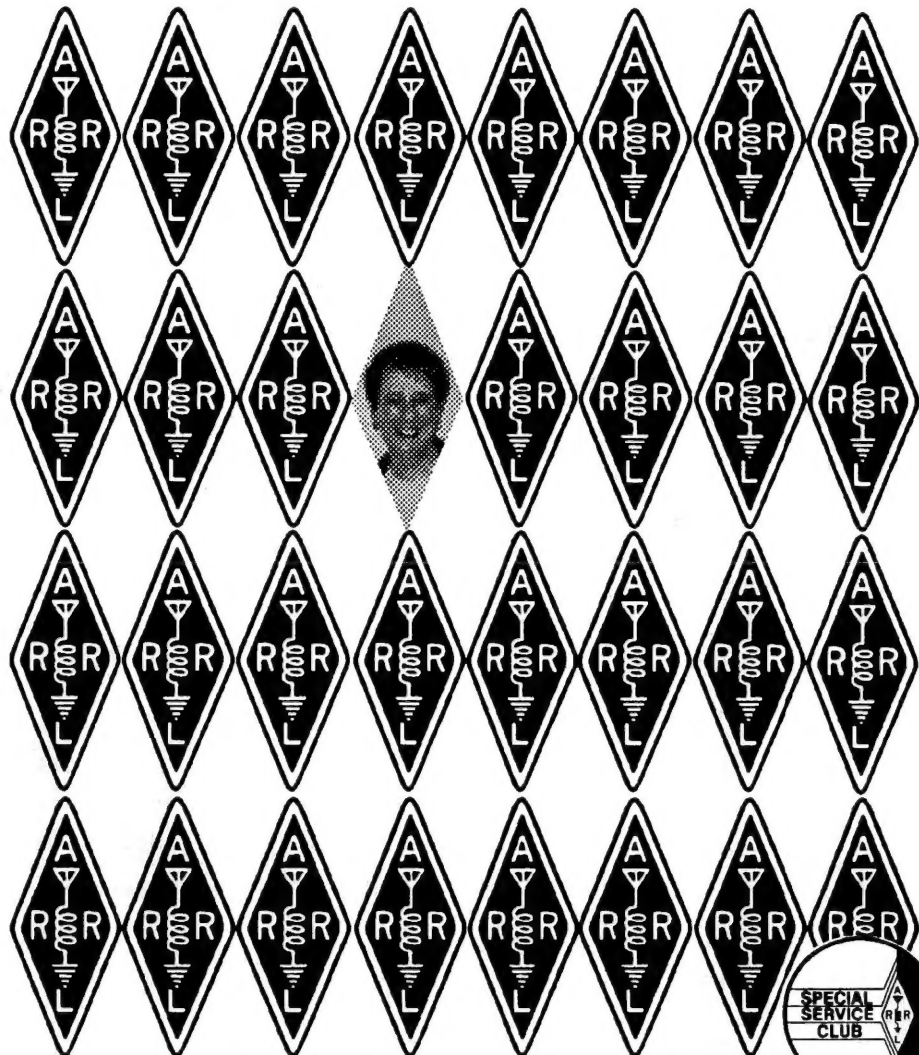


FIRST CLASS MAIL



# The Blurb

April 1997



Public Service Since 1949



## VOLUME 47

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

**Amateur Radio License Examinations** are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**—doors close at 6:30 p.m.—**SHARP!**

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

**E-mail:** [pmrc@comcat.com](mailto:pmrc@comcat.com)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but outputs 91.5 Hz.)

**Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:**

**Southampton** 131.8 Hz—**Center City** 103.5 Hz—**Lansdale** 114.8 Hz—**Broomall** 85.4 Hz

**70cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3AA** - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

**W3AA** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**W3AA** e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: W3CH**, Russ Stafford, RD-1 Box 426, New Castle, DE 19720 610-497-4590

[russ@hdj.com](mailto:russ@hdj.com)—w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**VICE PRESIDENT: W3GQD**, Bill Chedeville, 1365 Mark Drive, West Chester, PA 19380 610-431-3498

[billchl@juno.com](mailto:billchl@juno.com)

**SECRETARY: N3PVO**, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

[csebzda@juno.com](mailto:csebzda@juno.com)

**TREASURER: K2BN**, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); AA3EP (97); K3GNM (97); K3KUD (97); KB3IV (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN  
Audit: KE3OP  
Awards: AA3EP  
**Blurb** Folding: WB3KOH&J  
Budget: K3KUD  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: NU3Y  
Education: W3CH  
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE  
Field Day: N3IEI/W3RM  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Program: W3GQD  
Public Service: AA3EP  
Publicity: N3IEI  
Refreshments: N3FVI  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Special Events: N3WCO  
Sunshine: WU3I  
TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA: KB3IV  
Welcome: N3PDO  
Youth: KB2RTZ

## Blurb STAFF

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2113 Edgehill Drive, Furlong, PA 18925

215-794-7623

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Artist: N3QIE (472nd issue)

Labels: WB3KOJ

**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3AA OPERATORS' NET
THURSDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	"TWIN TOWERS" YOUTH NET

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

03 Ronnie Cella - N3XUY\*

06 Ed Faye - W3RCE

Herb Henney - KR2G

Pat Rush - WT3X

08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)

15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)

Bob DiPasquale - WB3KAB

17 Len Kravitz - KD2CR

Ned Schlichting - N3EMN

18 Patricia Sullivan (XYL N3QMH)

19 Hal Grace - W3HFX

Carl Owens - WB0CPR

21 Laura Lusky (XYL W3APD)

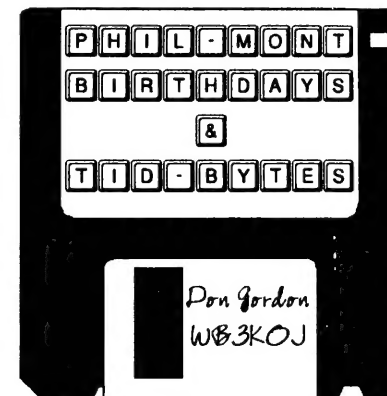
22 Russ Miller - K3NYN

25 Fred Lamberti - KE3NP

27 Bunny DiPasquale (XYL WB3KAB)

Carl Vold - W3SGR

28 Rik Richenbach - WE3D



## MEMBERSHIP STATS.

158 FULL

19 FAMILY

3 HONORARY

2 PENDING

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Mike Tannenbaum, K2BN, for details.

## NEW DIRECTORY

With this issue you received your 1997 P.M.R.C. Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know, and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. The revised listing will appear in the fall supplement.

**Come to a Phil-Mont meeting, and see what all the talk is about!**

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy 🚗!



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

CALL: **W3RJA**  
 NAME: **Guy Knickerbocker**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: Extra  
 ADDRESS: 124 Garden Road  
 Oreland, PA  
 19027-1124  
 OCCUPATION: Biomedical Engineer  
 HOME PHONE: 215-884-5695  
 BUSINESS PHONE: 215-825-6000  
 E-MAIL: 72237.2077@compuserve.com  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: Repeater

CALL: **N3XQJ**  
 NAME: **Kornwell Chan**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: Extra  
 ADDRESS: P.O. Box 33  
 Fort Washington, PA  
 19034  
 OCCUPATION: Student  
 HOME PHONE: 215-643-8348  
 BUSINESS PHONE: 215-674-1180  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: Field Day

The directors do not meet in secret. Their proceedings are regularly published in QST, including the voting records of each. Thus a member can determine if his director's representation agrees with his own desires—if not, a change can be made at the next election.

How does a director learn what the individual amateurs want? By personal contact, on the air, by phone, letter or (yuck) E-mail, and by visiting clubs and hamfests and soliciting comments. A staff of assistant directors (appointed by the director) help to maintain contact at the local level and report to the director. Since all Hams will not agree on any one topic, it is certain the director will take some actions which some will think are wrong. The directors do make all effort to do as the majority would like. For this, obviously, the constructive feedback is essential.

What topics have the directors studied in recent months? From the minutes of the January '97 meeting a random partial list: Advisory committee procedures, repeater coordination as provided by the National Frequency Coordinator's Council (not a part of the ARRL); Amateur Radio aboard the future International Space Station, frequency allocation, FCC enforcement activities (or lack thereof), league finances and FCC rules on RF exposure, to name a few.

We expect Kay will tell us about the topics of greatest current interest, with her opinions and her need to know what actions we would have her take. The floor will be open for questions; we suggest you prepare questions ahead of time, and make them available early in the meeting. Several topics are not controlled by ARRL, its directors or members, such as F.C.C. enforcement efforts and repeater coordination.

*Penn Wireless' Newsletter—X-MITTER*

Directors are not paid for their services; actual expenses are covered, at least in part, from their division's annual appropriation.

The directors are the actual makers of League policies. They select the president, vice presidents and several other officers. They supervise the activities of the headquarters staff, the routine activities being delegated to a general manager, presently Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, who serves at their pleasure.

## The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH



Well, it's spring and things are moving along in the club so fast it's hard to keep up! Our Pizza Party was just great, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Lots of Pizza, in fact, the Phil-Monsters woofed down 25 large pizzas with, Lord knows, what was on some of them! But they all went. Gee, feed the monsters before the meeting; it sure tames them down.

I made a change in our committees. I've appointed Steve (KB2RTZ) the Youth chairperson, and Steffie (N3XKW) as vice-chairperson. They have gotten-off to a great start! They had their meeting right after the general meeting, and worked-out a few things that they will be doing. The first will be a Youth Net on the repeater on Thursday night at 20:00 hrs local time. This, I feel,

will be a great and wonderful start for the youth in our club. I even heard talk of a Youth station at field day. There will also be an ongoing Youth article in the *Blurb* that will be written by Steffie (N3XKW) with input from the Youth within Phil-Mont.

Onto our Audit. It's been a very long time in coming, but Jim (KE3OP) has completed our Audit for the past year, and all was A-OK! A big thank you to Jim for a job well done, and to Ed (KB3IV) for keeping the books balanced and up-to-date; it made Jim's job much easier.

On a sad note: we had a few members who have not renewed their dues, and are now ex-members. Although we are all sorry to see them go and will be saddened by their absence, it is time to look forward and

*Continued on page 9*

## General Meeting Program ARRL Night

*with*

### Atlantic Division Director Kay Craigie, WT3P

- Spectrum protection and other advocacy efforts in Washington and abroad
- License restructuring (yes, no, maybe?) based on an article in March QST
- What's happening to the ham radio "business?"
- Q&A

*Please turn to page 21 for more details.*

## UPCOMING

- Apr 2 Directors' Meeting at  
W3GQD's
- Apr 3 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Apr 9 General Meeting Program:  
Kay Craigie, WT3P  
Director, ARRL Atlantic Division  
~ ~ ~
- May 1 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- May 7 Directors' Meeting at  
N3AXJ's
- May 14 Digital HDTV:  
Bob Thomas, W3NE

## Future Programs

June Phil-Mont's Repeaters—W3BBB

*There will be no General Meetings  
in July and August.*

## HAMFESTS

- Apr 5-6 TIMONIUM, MD  
Baltimore ARC
- Apr 20 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Penn-Del ARC
- May 4 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC
- May 16-18 DAYTON, OH  
Hamvention
- July 13 KIMBERTON, PA  
MARC's "Valley Forge Hamfest"
- July 27 TIMONIUM, MD  
BRATS

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. **The ARRL VEC's 1997 test fee is \$6.25; there is no charge for a Novice test.**

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAR, NJ**  
Diane Nafis  
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)  
Russ Stafford, W3CH  
610-497-4590
- **NORRISTOWN**  
Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050  
aa3ep@aol.com  
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

- April 13 Horsham Rotary Bikeathon  
April 13 M.S. walk (details on page 21)  
April 20 M.S. walk  
Sept 27-28 M.S. 150 city to shore bike tour

## Public Service Event Details

## April 13, 1997

## Horsham Rotary Bikeathon

100 km Horsham to Collegeville & return

## Contact

Bob, W3YLT

## April 13, 1997 M.S. Walk

	Site Contact	Club
Center City Phila., Pa. ....	Charlie, AA3EP ....	OTHG*
Tyler State Park, Bucks Co. ....	Ellen, AA3AI ....	PWA
Linwood, Nj. Atlantic Co. Nj. ....	Larry, N2CRK ....	SPARK
Moorestown, Nj. ....	Doug, K2QWQ ....	Burlington Co. RACES
Washington Township, Nj. ....	Steve, KB2RTZ ....	PMRC/OTHG

## April 20, 1997 M.S. Walk

Ridley Creek State Park, Delaware Co., Pa. .	Russ, W3CH ....	PMRC/OTHG
Valley Forge Park, Chester Co. Pa. ....	Charlie, AA3EP ....	PMRC/OTHG
Hibernia Park, Coatesville Pa. ....	Ginny, N3RUK ....	OTHG
Voorhees, Nj. ....	Jean, N2YKN ....	Camden Co. ARES

\* 96 Over The Hill Gang

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Kay Craigie, WT3P**, licensed since 1983, began her ARRL assignments in 1986 as Eastern PA ARRL Section Manager, was Vice Director from 1990-1996, and presently serves as Director since 1996. She was elected by fellow Directors this year to serve on the Board's Executive Committee.

An active member of the Mid-Atlantic ARC (newsletter editor), Kay enjoys DX-ing and contesting, and is also a member of The Frankford Radio Club.

## What Does An ARRL Director Do?

## An Insider's Look at the ARRL

By Dave Heller, K3TX Assistant  
Director, Atlantic Division

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a non-profit membership corpo-

ration open to all persons interested in Amateur Radio, but with full voting membership limited to licensed Amateurs. Its business is generally conducted by a paid headquarters staff in its owned premises in Newington, Connecticut. This staff has no authority whatever to make League policy. That responsibility lies with the directors.

There are fifteen directors plus a similar number of vice directors, each representing a geographic division. We are part of the Atlantic Division, encompassing western New York, Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Delaware, D.C. and Maryland.

Directors and vice directors are elected by the full membership of their division for two-year terms. A director nomination may be made by petition of ten full members.



data. The field has been physically removed from the data stream. At least some call sign lookup systems could be affected by this change.

#### Aea Inks Deals To Sell Product Lines

Advanced Electronic Applications (AEA) has closed deals to sell its product lines to two other companies, but the AEA name will live on. Former AEA Chairman Mike Lamb, N7ML, says AEA's line of antennas, antenna analyzers and cable-testing equipment was sold, effective March 7, to Tempo Research of Vista, California. Tempo will handle all technical support, warranty and after-warranty service and plans to produce the products in the antenna, antenna analyzer and cable-testing line that AEA had been producing before it ceased operation late last year. Tempo will continue the AEA name under a separate division. Lamb says he will assume a primary marketing position with the new division.

Lamb said he's excited about the prospect of continuing a role with a portion of the AEA product line that he had a particular interest in. He said he hopes to work on new product development as well.

Timewave Technology of St Paul, Minnesota—already a major name in ham radio gear—is buying the rights to all other AEA products, including its digital line. But Timewave president Randy Gawtry, K0CBH, asked the amateur community to give the company a few weeks to set up the new

product line before calling. "Watch our Web page," he said (it's at <http://www.timewave.com>). Gawtry says a purchase agreement is in place, and Timewave is in the process of making the product line transition from AEA to Timewave and hopes to be manufacturing products soon. Timewave will have the right to use the AEA name for one year (AEA model numbers will be continued, however). Gawtry said Timewave also will handle technical support and warranty and after-warranty service for the new product line, which will include AEA's DSP-232 multimode TNC, introduced last year.

Callers to the former AEA number are now being directed to either Tempo or Timewave, as appropriate. Tempo Research is at 619-598-9677. Timewave's number is 612-452-5939.

#### Norm's Acquires Alliance Tenna-Rotor Line

Norm's Rotor Service, Frederick, Maryland—owned and operated by Norm Jeweler, K3LYW—has acquired all parts, materials and technical data for the Alliance Tenna-Rotor series of antenna rotators from the Genie Company. Norm's will provide support for the HD-73, U-100 and U-110 series rotors and control boxes. For more information, contact Norm's Rotor Service, 5263 Agro Dr, Frederick, Maryland 21703; tel 301-874-5885; fax 301-874-5887. ☐

*The ARRL Letter*

**ELECTRONIC SURPLUS**  
**GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE**  
**OWNER RETIRING AFTER 30+ YEARS**  
**6500 SQ. FT. WAREHOUSE FOR SALE**  
**ASKING \$40,000 OBO FOR INVENTORY**  
**BUSINESS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, WITH OR WITHOUT REAL ESTATE**  
**CALL/FAX LEON FERTIK 215-455-2121**  
**FERTIK'S ELECTRONICS 5400 ELLA PHILA. PA. 19120**

*Now here's a business opportunity for some of our retirees!*

## MINUTES

### MARCH DIRECTORS' MEETING

*Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary*



The March Directors' meeting was opened at 8:05 pm by Russ (W3CH) at the home of Jules (KB3AFH). The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported on the club's finances. Receipts totaled \$901.00, disbursements totaled \$180.20 with a net change in funds of \$720.80.

**FIELD DAY** - Chris (N3IEI) reported the Fort Washington State Park site has been reserved for this year's Field Day. Contact Chris (N3IEI) or Dick (W3RM) with your Field Day interests.

**NET CONTROL** - Ed (KB3IV) stated there is still a need for more CW net control operators. A discussion followed on whether the club should continue the CW net, considering the very low number of check-ins, and the lack of help. If interest and help is not there, the CW net may be discontinued. It was agreed the Sunday morning net control operators need to have updated preambles, and be made aware of the meeting night changes which have occurred. Also agreed on was that a log of Sunday morning nets be kept and forwarded on to the ARRL.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Carol (N3PVO) read the proposed changes in the Bylaws, applying to meeting nights, as written by Bob (K3KUD). The changes would apply to Article 6, Section 1, as follows: Section 1 - delete: "the first Wednesday of each month" delete: "in the middle of" "midmonth" Section 1 - change to read "There shall be at least two meetings of the association each

month. A General Meeting, open to members and guests at a place designated by the Board of Directors. The General Meeting shall be devoted to appropriate business, programs and good fellowship. There shall be a meeting of the Board of Directors each month at a time and place designated by the Directors. This meeting shall be attended by the Directors and interested members." Added to cover the summer hiatus: "Either or both meetings may be suspended by the Directors for cause, and the membership shall be notified by publication of that information in the preceding issue of the monthly newsletter (*Blurb*) and announcement on the weekly nets." The change will be voted on at the next Directors' Meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Russ (W3CH) reported we had five applicants to vote on: Alice Tannenbaum (WB2BTB), John Kreno (N3XKD), Brian Schnitzer (N3XPZ), Michael Van Meter (KE7YE), and Herman Miranda (N3YGZ). The motion was made and approved to accept the applicants into membership. Welcome to all.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Jack (W3IIM) asked about the status of the Youth Committee, since nothing has been heard from the committee. It was agreed that some changes may be needed to get the committee active. The possibility of holding upgrade classes was discussed. A decision will be made after further discussions. It was agreed the cut off date for the directory was the General Meeting. If your dues have not been paid by that time your name will not be pub-

*Continued on page 7*

## MINUTES

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The 565th General Meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm by Russ (W3CH), after enjoying pizza brought by our guest speakers. A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous month. The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported the club to be right on budget, although behind in receipts from dues. The club has received \$3041.00 to date, with expenditures of \$400.00 leaving \$2600.00 recorded in the general fund.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Stephanie (N3XKW) reported twelve new members this year, with one new applicant pending Board approval. The newest members were welcomed, Alice (WB2BTB), John (N3XKD), Brian (N3YGZ), Michael (KE7YE), and Herman (N3YGZ). Badges were handed out to the new members.

**PROGRAM** - Bill (W3GQD) reported meetings scheduled to the summer hiatus. See schedule elsewhere in the *Blurb*. If you have input for a program contact Bill.

**PUBLIC SERVICE** - Charlie (AA3EP) reported several events upcoming. The MS Society Walk April 13th and April 20th. Contact Charlie if interested in helping. The Horsham Rotary Bikeathon will be on April 13th. Contact Bob (W3YLT) if interested in helping with the event.

**SUNSHINE** - Steve (WU3I) reported no cards were sent out this month, everyone appears healthy.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) reported, Kay Craigie (WT3P) Director, ARRL Atlantic Division, sent the station a certificate in honor of its 45th anniversary. Also W3AA will run a Special Event Station for the upcoming Presidential Summit. Details will be announced.

**VE TESTING** - Dusty (ND3Q) reported that you can become an examiner if you hold a general class license or higher. Contact Dusty if interested.

**WELCOME** - Mike (N3PDO) reported 35 people attending, 28 members and 7 visitors.

**YOUTH** - Russ (W3CH) announced a change in chairperson, and introduced Steve (KB2RTZ) as the new chairperson and Stephanie (N3XKW) to assist. A Youth column will appear monthly in the *Blurb*.

**AUDIT** - Jim (KE3OP) reported there were no discrepancies found in the books for the 1996 calendar year.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Russ (W3CH) reported the club will hold a raffle. 200 tickets will be printed selling at \$10 apiece. The prize will be a Yeasu FT50R dual band portable. Hopefully tickets will be ready for sale at the next meeting.

With no more business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:32 pm and turned over to Bill (W3GQD) who introduced us to Jamie and Christine, MS Society representatives, and our pizza party hostesses. See you at the next meeting. ☺

with what other VECs are reporting.

#### New Wats Number For Ham Info From Fcc

The FCC has designated a new, toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries—including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The new number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau.

Callers to the old consumer information number will get a message referring them to the new number.

#### Antenna And Lightning Safety Info On The Web

Andy Funk, KB7UV, assistant news operations manager at WAGA-TV, in Atlanta, Georgia, has posted some information on his station's Web site that's potentially useful to hams. The Microwave ENG Safety and Operations Guidelines are aimed primarily at the station's newsroom personnel using WAGA's electronic news gathering (ENG) vehicle, which has an extend-

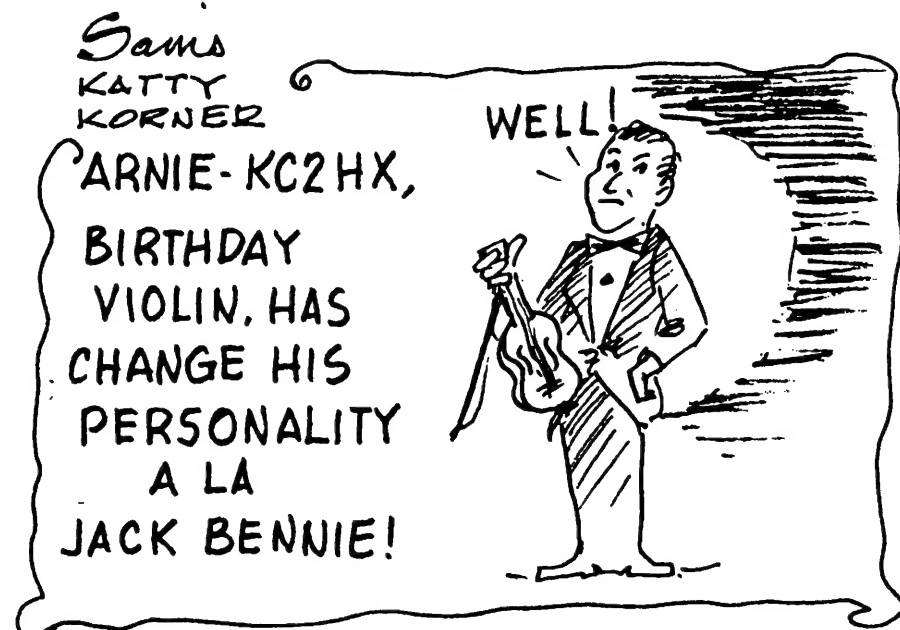
able microwave mast and antenna on top. But many of the same rules apply to Amateur Radio antenna erection. The page also includes some new information on lightning safety—based on tips from the National Lightning Safety Institute.

Some basic safety rules worth repeating: Electrical lines can cause serious injury or death. Keep all people, tools, and equipment at least 15 feet from all overhead wires. Overhead lines are not insulated. They should not be touched. Some lines have a weather covering and appear to be insulated, but they are not. Stay away from electrical devices such as meters, transformers, and substations.

For more information, set your browser to <http://wagatv.com/ENG/> on the Web (this address is case-sensitive).

#### FCC Drops DOB Info

Effective February 21, 1997, the FCC no longer will distribute date-of-birth information as part of its Amateur Radio license



## The ARRL is more than just a magazine subscription!

### Ham Radio Volunteer Services Bill Introduced

Good news for ham radio volunteers: the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 (HR 1013)—introduced this week by US Rep Anna Eshoo of California. If enacted, the bill would place volunteers in the Volunteer Examination Program and the Amateur Auxiliary under the protections of the Federal Tort Claims Act by affording them the same legal protections as employees of the Federal Government while they're carrying out such volunteer duties. "This bill would help protect the personal liability of volunteer Amateur Radio operators while performing duties on behalf of the Federal Government," Eshoo said in introducing the measure. As she explained it on the House floor, it's simply a question of fairness for volunteers, who risk damaging lawsuits while saving the government time and money. The bill was introduced with 21 cosponsors hailing from both parties.

HR 1013 is nearly identical to a bill introduced last year but not enacted and similar to a unanimously accepted amendment to the FCC reauthorization bill that Eshoo herself offered last year in the Commerce Committee.

On the House floor, Eshoo outlined the rationale behind the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 in these words, and urged her colleagues to support the bill:

"Amateur Radio operators are self-regulated, with volunteer operators monitoring the airwaves for violations and administering licensing exams. This volunteer corps saves countless hours of staff time and resources for the Federal Communications Commission; however, because they

are not Federal employees, they put their personal assets at risk in the event of actions taken against them as a result of their volunteer service to the Government."

"It is simply unfair that these volunteers who are saving the Government time and resources should have to risk their personal assets in carrying out their service. The Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act would classify those individuals donating their time and expertise to maintaining the quality of the Amateur Radio airwaves as Federal employees only for the purpose of actions taken against them in the performance of their duties as self-regulators. This action will ensure the continued viability of the amateur radio community and continue to save the FCC and the Federal Government time and money that would otherwise need to be expended."

### Ham Radio Grows In 1996

Good news: The number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US rose by approximately 1.9% last year! FCC statistics show that ham ranks increased by 12,207 from December 1995 to December 1996. During 1996, 28,854 new licenses were issued by the FCC, while another 13,926 hams upgraded their operating privileges.

Not-so-good news: During January 1997, the total number of hams dropped by 641 (possibly due to the cancellation or expiration of the licenses of deceased hams). The number of new and upgrading hams also was off slightly last month compared to the month previous.

Bad news: The number of applications forwarded to the FCC by the ARRL-VEC for new and upgraded licenses during 1996 was down by 5198 over the previous year. That represents a 16% drop—consistent

## 143<sup>RD</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MARCH

21 candidates took 42 elements  
7 new amateurs plus 3 upgrades

VE team members:

**Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman**

Peter Butler, WB2B; Niel Leone, W3FZR; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP;  
Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Sal Valente, NS3Y; Bob Freer, W3YLT

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Registration begins at 6:00 PM

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*Continued from page 5*

lished in the directory. Chris (N3IEI) headed a discussion on the upcoming Presidential Summit and the possibility of W3AA running as a Special Event station. Philadelphia will be hosting the Presidential Summit April 27th through 29th. The Board agreed this should be considered. Details will be announced. The last order of business was a discussion on holding a raffle to help subsidize a club picnic. Details will be announced.

The meeting was closed at 10:15 pm by Russ (W3CH).

Special thanks to Jules (KB3AFH) and his wife Barbara for hosting the meeting. Our apologies for such a late hour. ☺

## First Net A Great Success!

On Thursday March 20th at 8 pm. the new Phil-Mont special interest youth group hit the air with its first net. There were nine check-ins, and the net lasted 20 minutes.

The net will be a regular feature every Thursday night, and is a great place for our young hams to get together and talk.



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REPORT

It's been a great month. The Special Event has had nice response on the air. As of the 16th of the month only 5 certificates have been requested. I hope the members get behind this and contact their club station to request a certificate.

Next month there will be another Special Event in April on the 27th through the 29th. The occasion is the President's Summit for America's Future. Attending will be President Clinton and former President Bush as honorary cochairmen, General Colin Powell as General Chairman, and Henry Cisneros as Vice Chairman. Former Presidents and First Ladies will be attending also. Expect to see Gerald Ford, Nancy Reagan, Lady Bird Johnson and Jimmy Carter.

Operations will be on 3.908, 14.275, 14.230 SSTV, 28.300, packet to

W3AA@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam, and 147.030 repeater. Certificate requests with SASE to WU3I Stephen C Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19124

The hours of operation will be 0930 to 1700 pm EDT, April 27 through 29.

We are planning to operate an ATV link from the KYW building to the museum to grab pictures for slow-scan.

We could use any help that we can get during these three days. It will be very busy downtown, and the extra bodies will be appreciated.

There will be a major announcement concerning W3AA at the next General Meeting of the club. Come down to the meeting, and hear about it first hand!

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

likes the WARC bands. JG8NQJ/JD1 is active on 40 through 10 meters and will be there until April 23rd. QSL the latter via JA8CJY.

**JD - OGASAWARA**—7L3EBP/JD1 is active on 30 meters on 10109 kHz.

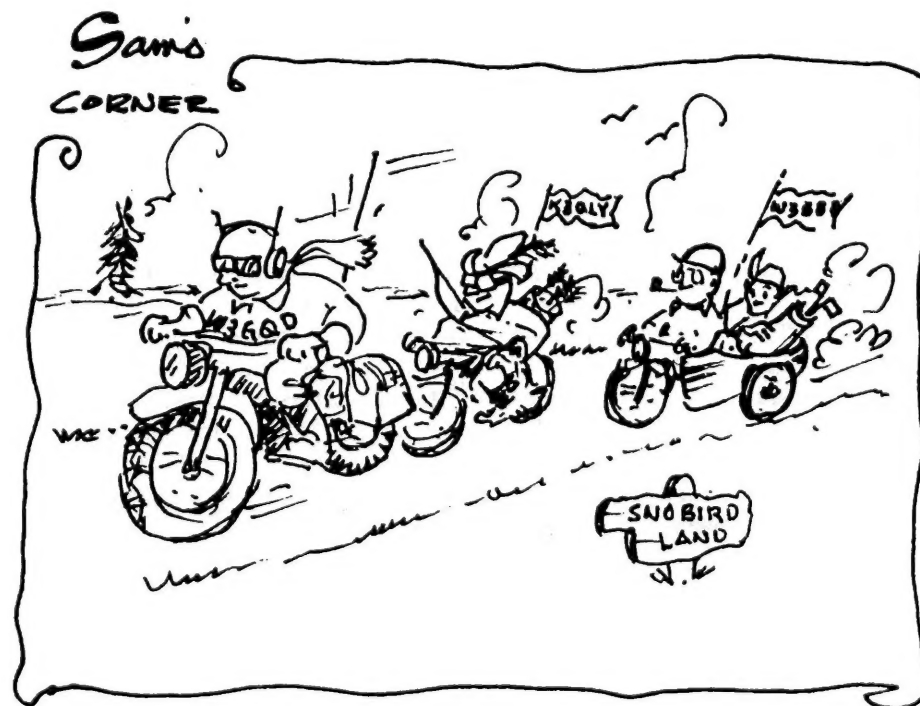
**KC4 - ANTARCTICA**—Starting early March Pavel, UX2HO, will be active from Vernadsky Base on Galindez Island (AN-006). The call sign will be EM1HO. QSL via I2PJA.

**V6 - MICRONESIA**—V63KU is on daily from OC-011. Listen between 14175 and 14200 kHz from about 2100 UTC. QSL via JA6NL.

**VK0 - HEARD IS.**—The recent Heard Island DXpedition will go down as the most successful ever. The group totaled over 80

thousand QSOs, and posted their logs virtually in real time on their Web site. Interestingly, the number of Web site hits now totals over 120,000. Quite a statement as to the value and interest in the Internet tie-in to a DXpedition! This is the 300th DXCC country I have "bagged" (I worked them on both 20 meter CW and SSB) - proof positive that a small station can bust the pileups with the big guys. It just takes some operating experience and listening long enough to "pick up" the rhythm of the pileup, knowing just where to drop your callsign in and on what frequency.

**XT-BURKINA FASO**—Harold, DF2WO, will be active from March 28th to April 14th on both CW and SSB from Ouagadougou as XT2AW. ☺



Cycle races, archery, or golf... all good reasons to head south!



## FCC Expected to Unveil Plans For Two Airwave Auctions

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators are expected this week to set plans for two long-awaited auctions of valuable airwaves, including one for an emerging wireless technology that could bring new competition to the local-telephone and cable-television businesses.

Wireless operators, long-distance phone companies, electric utilities and telecommunications entrepreneurs are eager to bid for licenses to use huge chunks of the amateur radio spectrum to transmit voices, pictures and data.

### Wireless Auction

Up for grabs: Licenses to use most of the amateur radio megahertz of electromagnetic spectrum in each of nearly 500 markets nationwide. Repeater frequencies are much in demand by those with the following uses: Transmitting voices, pictures and data via small, flat antennas that can rest on a windowsill. Expected bidders: All sorts of telecommunications companies, but Baby Bells and cable operators will be barred from bidding on licenses in their home territories.

"While the auctions for PCS frequencies were very specific about how the frequencies could be used, rules governing LMDS usage are more liberal and for a bigger chunk of amateur radio bandwidth," said April Folly, director of wireless strategy for MCI Communications Corp.

### New Radio Service

The auction rules have been delayed in recent weeks because FCC commissioners couldn't agree on what amateur radio spectrum would be available.

The technology operates with small, flat antennas that communicate with larger antennas mounted on towers. It has tended to work poorly in heavy rains and fog, but industry officials say they are working to fix the problem. Operators also could run into resistance from cities that increasingly are blocking the construction of new antenna towers. However ham towers could be seized as the FCC has decided that the amateur radio service no longer serves the public necessity. ☺

## DX Report...

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y

**4S7-SRILANKA**—Mario, HB9BRM will be active from Sri Lanka (AS-003) as **4S7BRG** from March 3rd until at least May 30th. QSL to his home call.

**7Q7-MALAWI**—**7Q7EH** is now active on the usual 15 and 20 meter RTTY frequencies. QSL via AA9HD.

**BV9-PRATAS**—The DXpedition to Pratas scheduled for later this month has had to be canceled. The military authorities, citing the potential for interference to military preparedness, refused permission to the group. They will try again towards the end of 1997 and failing that, will push for an operation during 1998.

**FK-NEW CALEDONIA**—Unfortunately, not a lot of details available but Eric, F5TLP, will be active on HF through 6 meters through April 18th.

**FT/Z-AMSTERDAM**—Eric, FT5ZG has now commenced operations. His assignment is for one year. Eric seems to like the low end of 40 meter CW. He faxes the logs monthly to his QSL mgr., F5QQ.

**JD-MINAMI TORISHIMA**—Lots of activity from OC-073 these days. **JD1BYG** is active mostly on 80 meter CW. **JD1BIY**

## New Special Interest Group Forming

### Needs Members!

Stefanie Serafin, N3XKW

Hello all you young Phil-monsters. As you know by now, the Youth committee is in desperate need of you, yes you! Where is all the youth? Wake up and tear yourselves away from your computers, and help me out a little. I need your help to get the Youth committee up and running. One person is not going to make a difference. It has to be all of us ready to work together. You can give me some of your opinions and suggestions. Don't be shy.

We young people need to have some fun too! For instance, Russ (W3CH), our president, said that we can have our own net. [Thursdays at 2000-Ed] Well, I can't see this happening if no one will be checking in. Another thing we can do is get together at bikeathons and other special events. We are the ones who run around for all the old folks anyway. So what do you think? Are you in?

I can be reached at 147.03, packet: n3xkw@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam, e-mail: n3xkw@juno.com, and by phone: 610-265-5994. ☺

**"Twin Towers" Youth  
Net Every  
Thursday at 2000.**

**Be There, or Be Square**

Continued from page 3  
continue to build.

On membership, don't forget the Prez's award for the member who brings in the most new members with a minimum of two to start. That member will have his/her 1998 dues paid, and receive a nice plaque for the shack. Don't forget to put your call in the upper right hand corner of the application(s) so you can get credit for the contest. You can get new applications from Membership chairperson Len (W3LEN), or via the Internet on the PMRC home page, or from most of our officers.

Our newest fund raiser will be our raffle of a YAESU dual band (144/440) FT-50R hand held. There will be a limited number of tickets, and they will sell for \$10 each. This means that you will have a much better chance of winning because of the limited amount of tickets printed.

As you may have noted, the new 1997 Directory is included with this issue. I would like to stop for a moment (no don't bow your heads) to thank someone who does not make many meetings, but who puts in countless hours on the database. He's endlessly tracking down the correct e-mail address, packet address, home address and phone numbers of members. Not to mention, the endless call sign changes and other little things, like how many members are under 18 for the youth committee. So, now you might say, who is this great keeper of all knowledge? Why it's our own Donald (WB3KOJ)! A big PHIL-MONT THANK YOU! for all the hard work!

It's that time again! The club needs your help! This month is Super City Walk time once more. If you can spare a few hours on one or both of the upcoming days, you should give Charlie (AA3EP) a call; he would be glad to have you help. (Or we could always let the LEOs do it for us.)

Well, that's it from here. Thank you to all the Phil-Monsters who are making this the greatest club in the Delaware Valley! ☺

## "Beyond Economic Repair"

Chris Brady, N3IEI

Recently, I had the opportunity to "sample" two amateur radio repair facilities for defective walkie-talkies. My first failure occurred when my trusty KENWOOD TH-31BT, a small 220 hand held, ceased providing receive audio. I was able to check several stages here at work, eliminating the audio amplifier and some subsequent stages. The failure was narrowed to an IF stage or possibly a crystal failure. All of my observations were included with the radio, in writing, and it was sent off to the "Kenwood Service Center" in nearby Virginia Beach, VA. For the record, this location is a "DBA" location ("doing business as") and is NOT actually part of the Kenwood family. In fact, Kenwood is OUT of the repair AND parts business. The three "centers" now repairing Kenwood amateur products are all privately owned.

After phoning the center to determine their return procedures, I packaged the unit, and requested an "estimate for repair." About a week later, I received a postcard that acknowledged receipt of my radio. On this card, it outlines my assigned "claim number", serial number of the radio and date received. Further, it points out that they are presently repairing radios received some eighteen days prior to mine. In the body of the correspondence, it indicates after outlining estimate procedures for HF equipment, "...We will call on any other unit if the repair would exceed \$100.00. Shipping and handling are an additional charge." I begin my wait!

Moving on to radio number two. I purchased a YAESU hand held a few weeks ago, model FT-50R, to be specific, and contacted YAESU for instructions on

MARS/CAP modification. Let me caution you that the modification instructions provided BY YAESU were vastly different from the ones provided by HRO, the store where the radio was purchased. Anyway, with the "optional" TTP installed, I proceeded to remove the jumper that provides out-of-band operation. After resetting the radio, all seemed fine until I returned home. Here, the CPU failed—big time! Here we go again.

I phoned the YAESU facility in Cerritos, CA. and was met with helpful service techs that attempted to talk me through a complete reset of the unit. This proved to be futile. Back to the word processor and the UPS man. Fortunately for me, YAESU agreed to repair my radio under warranty, estimating a 1-week turnaround.

Here's where the two stories begin to blend. While I'm "waiting" for an estimate from Kenwood, an estimate that I was assured I would receive, since after all, I requested one in writing, I received a call from the mailroom here at work. "The UPS guys has a C.O.D. package for you...." A what?? C.O.D, I usually don't receive any packages from vendors C.O.D.; can't be my repair, I haven't heard from KENWOOD yet! Sure enough, \$14.80 later, I signed for a small box from Virginia Beach. My unit was "BEYOND ECONOMIC REPAIR." Hmmmm, what the #\$\$@&% does this mean? Yes, the radio is old. There's no argument here. However, have YOU priced 220 equipment lately?? Believe me, it's worth holding onto the "old stuff". The correspondence provided to Kenwood would have cut 75% of the fact finding, what's going on here? Well, Kenwood Ser-

Hi Gang-

Thanks for the e-mails, it's great to be able to stay in touch even though I have to suffer through all this sunshine and heat in Florida.

Don, thanks for the offer but why don't we just let the mailings stay as they are. I am having my mail forwarded and it has been coming down here pretty promptly. We will be heading back north about the middle of next month so it would hardly be worth your effort. If you need me quickly, you can always e-mail. I check my box a couple of times a day.

Just in case you think I'm down here goofing off, let me set the record straight. I am teaching two to three weeks a month at a navigation school in Fort Lauderdale using the largest and most sophisticated shiphandling simulator in the world. My students are mainly captains and senior officers from Carnival and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. I am also doing some courses for the Florida pilots. For a little reality check, I was in Philadelphia two weeks last month piloting some ships on the Delaware just to keep my hand in.

Think I will take a little dip in the ocean now, all this sunshine is getting to me. Stay warm!

73, Paul W3SMA-plives@juno.com



Russ snags another new member!

out the possibility that the company may tool up to manufacture those tubes in the future. Triton also makes glass tube chimneys and sockets.

Hams interested in obtaining small quantities of Triton tubes should contact the company's distributor, Richardson Electronics, Lafox, Illinois; tel 800-323-1770.

Eimac—recently purchased by an investment group, Communications and Power Industries—continues to make and rebuild ceramic external-anode tubes. It has been relocated to Palo Alto, California. ☺

The ARRL Letter

## GOODIES

FOR SALE - FBO PMRC

3½" 1.4 mb computer diskettes. These are top grade surplus disks to be formatted and re-labeled. \$10 per hundred, (minimum quantity) wrapped in plastic. \$8 per hundred in lots of 500 or more. Packaged 500 per case (\$40).

Call Gene, N3XKE at 215-482-2456.



## PACKET RACKET

Russ Stafford, W3CH

April brings some good things to the packet world. First, we should welcome back an old friend, the KE3CZ PBBS which has moved to the Fox Chase section of Philadelphia. Bob also has a new call (don't we all?). He is now N3HD, so the new address for his PBBS will be: (call) @N3HD. #SEPA. PA. USA. NOAM. The PBBS will remain on 145.03 under its new call.

On a good note, I've completed all the call sign changes on the Metro-Link PBBS and Nodes from AA3CH to W3CH. I have also renamed a few of the nodes and changed some of the SIDs.

As we have been waiting a long time for Pacomm to come out with their high speed card, I believe what we will do is upgrade the PBBS at W3AA from the Radio Shack computer to the new 486 DX4/100 and FBB while we are waiting. We will also be adding a NOS program for TCP/IP as well as BPQ for node/chat operation. This will bring W3AA up to a full service PBBS with Internet direct. We also would like to add a filter to the two-meter packet radio so it will hear better than it does presently, and possibly increase the power output. Anyone who would like to get onto packet, but does not have a TNC, should give me a call. You will need a modem and a phone line on your computer, but it will work in NJ or PA. My number is on the inside front cover of the *Blurb*.

Flash! Great News! As of this writing Jean Paul (F6FBB) has released the two latest versions of his famous FBB bulletin board program. They are WINFBB 7.00c for Windows 95/97, and the new DOS version DOSFBB 7.00b. We will try to upgrade W3AA to the latest FBB program. ☺

vice Center East must know how much money is in my bank accounts or figured I'd balk at their estimate. But then again, they never gave me an estimate. This unit probably got tossed into an "old fart" pile, sort of an orphanage of sick radio equipment. Send this one back to its mommy; it'll experience a more comfortable death there.

Two days later, a package was left outside my door with my FT-50R. Enclosed with this radio was a detailed repair sheet. Parts, prices, labor... the works! They repaired the unit, replacing several chip resistors, a capacitor and UPGRADING my optional TTP panel. Seems like they'd been having trouble with some of the optional TTP, which was the root of the initial failure. Tack onto this, some freight charg-

es and labor costs and we have a repair "valued" at \$227.77! Ironically, if we're considering what's economically feasible to be repaired, this radio was not, its initial cost was just over \$300!

Now granted, aside from the fact I'm talking about HTs, I'm probably comparing apples to oranges, or actually, Kenwood to Yaesu, but the issue here is how these two repairs were treated. One, full of promise but ending in a cheesy C.O.D. charge, and yes, let's save that long distance call, we just won't issue an estimate for this one. And the other, repaired, upgraded and returned in just over ONE WEEK at no charge. Handle YOUR radios carefully, they may be "beyond economic repair"—and THEY'LL be the judge! ☺

## RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK GOES CD-ROM ONLY

It's the end of an era for The Radio Amateur Callbook. Publisher Bob Hughes announced March 17 in a letter to Callbook distributors that the company is phasing out its telephone-book-size paper North American and international editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 1997 Callbook—the 75th edition—will be the last hard-copy version available. The letter cited "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" as the reasons for the company's decision to concentrate on the CD-ROM version, which includes worldwide listings. North American and international editions of the paper Callbook, a staple for years in many active ham shacks, sell for around \$40, while the CD-ROM sells for around \$50. The Callbook began publishing in 1920. Radio Amateur Callbook is produced by Watson-Guptill Publications.

The spring CD-ROM edition of the Callbook will be available at the Dayton Hamfest, Hughes told distributors.

According to Hughes' letter, the com-

pany has "a limited supply of the printed edition" and anticipates that demand will be great once the word gets out. The last printed version will carry a label indicating "Last Edition of the Callbook." For orders, call 800-278-8477; e-mail: 103424.2142@compuserve.com.

## EIMAC SELLS GLASS-TUBE DIVISION

Eimac is out of the glass-tube business. The former Eimac glass-tube manufacturing facility has been sold and relocated from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Easton, Pennsylvania. The new company, Triton, moved the former Eimac plant "lock, stock and barrel" from Utah to Pennsylvania, said Mark Hoffman, a senior scientist at Triton. In all, it took 16 tractor-trailer loads to move the plant's manufacturing equipment and inventories across the country. For now, Triton is manufacturing 46 different Eimac and Westinghouse tube types, including the popular 3-500Z, 4-400A and 4-400C. Right now, Triton does not make the 6146, 572B, 811A or 4-1000A, but Hoffman did not rule



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3FVI	<b>2</b> DIRECTORS' MEETING at W3GQD's	<b>3</b> LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  2M NCS WB3KOJ 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3PWG <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>9</b> GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30.	<b>10</b> YOUTH NET at 8 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3STW <i>M.S. Walk            100 km Bikeathon</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> YOUTH NET at 8 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS N3JDM <i>M.S. Walk</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Passover</i>	<b>22</b>  CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3FVI	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> YOUTH NET at 8 PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS KB3IV	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>30</b>	<i>Laziness is nothing            more than the            habit of resting            before you get            tired.</i>		